

February 14, 2001

JOIN THE BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Dear Colleague: Last Congress we started the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and were successful in recruiting over 130 Members to take part in bringing Alzheimer's to the forefront of the Congressional agenda. And together, we made progress in the battle against this devastating disease. Together, we were successful in increasing funding for research at the National Institutes of Health for Alzheimer's by over \$85 million. We were successful in passing the Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Awards program to increase clinical research on Alzheimer's. And finally, we were successful in clarifying the "homebound" definition so that Alzheimer's patients could attend adult day care and religious services without losing their home health benefits.

But there is still so much more to do!

It was only forty years ago that researchers considered Alzheimer's Disease a rare disorder. But since then, scientists have come to realize that it is far more common than we originally thought so common in fact that today Alzheimer's Disease is the leading cause of age-related dementia in the country.

It is so common -- that one in ten Americans over the age of 65, and one out of every two Americans over the age of 80 are afflicted. So common -- that 37 million Americans say they know someone with Alzheimer's. So common -- that 19 million Americans say they have a family member with the disease. So common that 2.7 million spouses, relatives and friends care for people with Alzheimer's. And so common that today over 4 million Americans suffer with the disease.

Please join us in the fight to improve the lives of those afflicted and affected today and to find a cure so that no one will fall victim to Alzheimer's tomorrow. To join the Alzheimer's Task Force please contact Angelique Skoulas with Rep. Ed Markey (5-2836) or Katie Hogan with Rep. Chris Smith (5-2135).

Sincerely,

ED MARKEY
Member of Congress

CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress